

CENTRAL WARD NEIGHBORHOOD CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 13, 1956

C O N T E N T S

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PART I

OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE

The neighborhood approach to community problems is fast gaining new acceptance all over America. Groups organized by blocks, neighborhoods, wards or districts, are being established to confer on common community problems and to devise solutions to those which impair good relations and impede community growth and progress.

These problems may be small and involve a single location or block, such as the installation of a traffic light at a given intersection. On the other hand, they may be large and involve a major housing redevelopment project or the construction of a major public improvement program such as an expressway. Whatever the size or nature of the project, it is certain to affect the individual home owner or resident. When, therefore, people get together for the purpose of informing each other, and taking collective action on matters which determine the conditions under which they will live - effective community progress can be made. This is even more important when such collective action involves a representative community group involving all races, religions, and nationalities in the area.

The Central Ward in Newark is frequently pointed to as the major problem area of the city. Within the Central Ward resides 88,000 of the city's 443,000 residents. Non-whites comprise the predominate portion of this population. The area itself is a mixed industrial-residential one and has long suffered from inadequate services of many kinds. Under the sponsorship, therefore, of the Urban League of Essex County, the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations, the Fuld Neighborhood House, and the Central Newark Community Council, the people of the Central Ward were encouraged to get together in this conference for the purpose of examining their community problems and determining courses of action which would be effective in improving living conditions in the Central Ward in all of the important aspects of community life. This is essentially the objective of the Central Ward Neighborhood Conference conducted at the Fuld Neighborhood House on Tuesday, November 13, 1956.

The recommendations for action which constitute Part V of this report were developed by the steering committee, based upon the deliberations of the conference.

PART II

ORGANIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE

All of the planning for the conference was carried on by a steering committee of 60 community representatives selected at large by the sponsoring organizations. This committee provided the leadership for the conference and during the actual conference activities, served as group leaders and recorders for the individual discussion groups. All matters of policy, arrangement, publicity, and conference procedures were determined by this committee.

The conference itself was conducted in three successive stages. First, there was a three minute presentation on a major neighborhood problem by each of the six Central Ward representatives. The primary purpose of this presentation was to impart information. Each presentation was purely objective and studiously avoided any drawing of conclusions. The second phase of the conference was a round table discussion involving 200 participants with a group leader and nine other persons seated at each of 20 separate tables.

The items for discussion at each table were left to the participants at that table and were not, therefore, confined to the six problem areas presented by the panel. These round table discussions consumed an hour of conference time. Following the round table discussion, a panel of consultants made up of city officials and civic leaders, were made available to the general assembly for a question and answer period. Another hour of conference time was devoted to this activity. A list of both the panelists and the consultants can be found in the appendix to this report.

The six problem areas presented by the panelists were (1) recreation (2) welfare services (3) housing (4) intergroup relations (5) city services, and (6) Schools.

The following section presents the actual deliberations of the conference and the findings and conclusions arrived at as a result of these deliberations.

PART III

DELIBERATIONS OF THE CONFERENCE

I. NATURE OF THE DELIBERATIONS

Expression of Residents

Seventy-five percent or 150 of the 200 persons participating in the round table deliberations were residents of the Central Ward. The questions raised, therefore, were based upon existing conditions in the area as experienced by the area's residents. Thus the conference reflected a realistic picture of the hopes, fears, frustrations and reactions of persons whose day-to-day existence was directly affected by circumstances and conditions in the Central Ward.

Seek Realistic Solution

It is well, therefore, to point out here that the analyses made - the conclusions reached, and the recommendations presented herein represent the thinking of persons whose daily lives are directly influenced by current social problems in the Central Ward and who are seeking realistic solutions to these problems which have plagued them over a period of years.

Conclusions Drawn by Participants

It is extremely important that these points be kept in mind because the deliberations and analyses, contained in this section of the report are wholly the consensus of the Conference participants and are in no way dictated or controlled by the sponsors or by members of the Conference leadership. The specific problem areas discussed, in order of their importance to the Conference, are as follows.

II. CENTRAL WARD SCHOOLS

New Physical Facilities

The Conference was unanimous in its declaration that immediate improvement in the physical facilities of the schools in the Central Ward is urgent. The first item of concern, therefore, was the continued delay in the construction of the West Kinney Junior High School.

W. Kinney * Jr. High

The Conference acknowledged the fact that construction costs, land acquisition, planning, and similar problems had to be met by the Board of Education. It was also pointed out that the Board of Education was well aware of these factors when it promised occupancy of this facility by 1954 - at the time when the tenanting of the Rev.-William F. Hayes Homes was scheduled. This promise was not kept. Later information indicated that the school would be ready in 1956. In spite of the critical need for this facility, it was not available in November 1956 at the time of this conference.

The Conference noted that still later information was to the effect that the school is now being planned for occupancy by 1958. With construction not yet started (November 1956) and the site being used as a public dumping ground by people in the area, the Conference doubted the 1958 date.

Vigorous Action Needed

Conference participants were almost unanimous in agreeing that immediate and vigorous action on the part of the Central Ward residents is necessary if favorable action on the part of the Board of Education with respect to promised construction of the West Kinney School is to become a reality in the immediate future.

18th Avenue School Playground

It was also pointed out that \$375,000 was set aside in 1953 for construction of a playground for the 18th Avenue School. While the project has been approved by the Board of Education, this facility has likewise not been provided. The Conference expressed grave concern over the failure of the Board of Education to carry out this project, and thus provide the area with a much needed facility which it has already approved and for which funds have been available for more than six years.

Inadequate Physical Facilities

The recorders' reports revealed the high degree of unanimity among the conference participants as to their points of view on the inadequacy of facilities in the older school buildings in the Central Ward. There was also an expression that most Central Ward schools were inadequately equipped and poorly supplied. Specifically cited was the lack of sanitary facilities at the Montgomery Street School. The Morton Street School was designated as

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* On February 27, 1957, the Board of Education announced that construction of the West Kinney St. Junior High School will begin in May 1957.

a totally inadequate educational facility. The absence of cafeterias in the old school buildings was also characterized as a glaring inadequacy according to modern standards in education.

Central Ward Schools Overcrowded

Central Ward schools generally were overcrowded the Conference decided. This overcrowding resulted in class loads of 35 to 40 pupils with half day sessions at the Monmouth Street School and the possibility of the same situation developing at the 18th Avenue School. These inadequacies, the Conference concluded, robbed Central Ward children of an equal opportunity in education. Correction of such inequities was the responsibility of the Board of Education, and as such, should command the full and immediate attention of the Board.

Curricula and Special Services

There was considerable concern among conference participants that there was too much stress on the practical arts in the Central Ward schools. As one conference participant expressed it, "We as American parents should think with our boys and girls about working to their full capacity toward the highest education possible. Should our children plan on high school and college? If so, what type? How can we make sure our children can get into high school and college? The answer is simple--only through good preparation in elementary and junior high school!"

Psychological Services Needed

There was a great unanimity of opinion that better provision should be made in the Central Ward's schools for fast learners as well as for slow learners. The participants also were in agreement that adequate services should be available for the mentally retarded and the emotionally disturbed. The establishment of a good psychological service was presented as an additional need in the schools of this area.

The Teachers Problem

The high proportion of substitute teachers in Central Ward schools commanded considerable attention by conference participants. The percentage of substitutes in the area's schools was quoted as ranging from 40 to 60 percent. The general opinion was that such percentages were too high for a well ordered school system. There was also a strong feeling that such percentages were higher than the average for the city as a whole and substantially above the averages of some wards. There was general agreement among the conference participants that, in the interest of better training for Central Ward pupils, the number of substitute teachers should be reduced. The Conference suggested better salaries be offered as one approach toward securing better trained and experienced teachers.

In-Service Training Suggested

It was further suggested that teachers who were new to the Central Ward should be given in-service or pre-service training in order to help them understand the school problems of a less favored economic area. Because of the unfavorable labels frequently placed upon Central Ward schools, the Conference believed that some new teachers come to the area with a defeatist attitude.

Selective
Assignment
Proposed

To offset this attitude it was suggested that the Board of Education should provide incentives which would attract those teachers who have the proper attitude and are willing to accept the challenge of doing an effective job in an area where good teachers are needed most.

Citizens

The Conference devoted considerable attention to the obligation of the citizens of the Central Ward in developing a sound and effective school program. Out of the deliberations on this point a number of suggestions were made. The major ones upon which there appeared to be general agreement were as follows.

Need for
Parent
Education

There is a great need for a parent education program geared to the elimination of delinquency among juveniles in the Central Ward. This was viewed as an activity for which the responsibility of leadership rests with the residents of the area. Resources for carrying out such a program could very well be, the participants decided, such groups as the various neighborhood councils; racial agencies operating in the area; the PTA's; adult education centers; or the organization of a specific group to do this needed job.

Use of
Social
Agencies

Home investigations conducted by professionally competent personnel through qualified social agencies was another need, the Conference decided. This activity would have as its purpose, the assembling of pertinent socio-economic and cultural data which would be useful in dealing with school problems resulting from home and environmental conditions.

Block
Mothers
Project

Another approach explored by the Conference was the establishment of a "Block-mothers' program set up through the PTA or some other community group, organization or agency for the purpose of fostering and cementing parent-school relations.

Community
Presentation

It was further decided that proper representation before the Board of Education through established and responsible community groups reflecting community opinions would offer a good approach to keeping the Board advised on school problems with which the community is concerned. Such effort might be of inestimable value in speeding up the construction of needed facilities and in properly equipping and staffing Central Ward Schools.

Planning
For
Schools

Proper planning for school construction was the final item discussed by the Conference in its school deliberations. Since the Central Ward is currently one of the City's important redevelopment areas, the Conference noted that school planning in this area should be brought abreast of redevelopment. Where housing projects are being planned or have been constructed, school facilities should simultaneously be made available to meet new needs created by population shifts, either through new school construction or by expanding existing facilities.

Preventative
Measures
Needed

The Conference pointed out that this had not been done in the Central Ward. Conference participants decided, therefore, that vigorous effort should immediately be made to assure the correction of existing inadequacies and to prevent the developing of similar conditions in the future.

III. MUNICIPAL SERVICES

Traffic Control

Central Ward traffic conditions posed several serious problems for consideration by the Conference. There was an almost unanimous decision that more traffic lights in the area is an immediate necessity in order to provide more safety for children who reside in the more densely populated sections of the Ward. Particular references were made to areas (1) in 16th Avenue between 11th and 12th Streets, (2) Corner of West Kinney and Sayre Streets, (3) Bergen Street at 17th Avenue and (4) the area of Belmont Avenue - Livingston Street - Morris Avenue and Springfield Avenue. It was urged that efforts be made to have traffic studies made of these areas and to include the possibility of the initiation of one-way streets to improve the flow of traffic and provide better safety measures.

Speeding A Problem

Extra long blocks in some of the areas designated above give rise to excessive speeding, the Conference found. Stricter enforcement of existing speed laws was suggested as one deterrent to this problem. More regulatory traffic signs and better placement for visibility was also an item which the Conference suggested be called to the attention of the City traffic department.

While the Conference recognized the difficulties involved in the control of modern day traffic, it concluded that some relief from the problems caused by double parking in the Central Ward could be eliminated if there were stricter enforcement with respect to this violation where such violations were irresponsible and were committed in areas and at times when they present a particular hazard to the safe flow of traffic.

Police Services

There was general agreement that better police services were needed in the Ward. The participants also agreed that if police assignments were made strictly on the basis of population density, the number assigned to the Central Ward does not meet the needs of the area. It was strongly recommended that this issue be thoroughly explored by the Director of the Police Department for the purpose of effecting a satisfactory solution to the problem of inadequate protection.

Police Brutality

The Conference acknowledged that the question of police brutality was not a new one. Considerable concern was expressed as to the nature and extent of the problem in the Central Ward. The participants concluded, therefore, that specific information and data need be gathered on this problem and a presentation designed to correct valid complaints made to the Police Director.

Vagrants
Problem

The nature and extent of vagrancy in the Central Ward claimed the attention of the Conference during its deliberations on police protection. It was concluded that in some areas of the Ward, the existence of abandoned structures and vacant lots provided a place for loiterers and vagrants. Such conditions constituted a nuisance and a threat to the personal safety of residents. The conclusions of the Conference were to the effect that adequate measures should be taken by the Police Department to rid the community of such hazards.

Street
Cleaning

Present street cleaning procedures in the Central Ward are inadequate. This was a general conclusion reached by the Conference. A major reason for this condition, the Conference agreed, was that of parking. With overnight parking permitted on both sides of the street, proper cleaning is almost impossible. Something need be done about this problem if adequate street cleaning is to be achieved. The Conference suggested that this problem be explored by an appropriate group, agency, or organization in the Central Ward for the purpose of developing a satisfactory solution in cooperation with the proper municipal departments.

Street
Littering

It was further suggested by the Conference that community groups give some serious attention to a continuous campaign to keep the area clean. Action should be taken to prevent littering, and if necessary, new and additional ordinances sought against "litter bugs".

Garbage
Removal

The conference examined the problems involved in an adequate trash and garbage removal service. It concluded that improvement of this service is needed in the Central Ward. This improvement, the Conference agreed, can be brought about only through (1) rigid enforcement of sanitation laws (2) cooperation between resident and city departments (3) cooperation between landlords and tenants, and (4) a community-wide effort to improve the handling of trash and garbage in this area.

Inspector
Needed

The assignment of an inspector by the City to enforce sanitary laws in the Central Ward was considered by the Conference as the first major step which must be taken. A second important step, the Conference decided, was a letter of notification to all landlords in the Ward containing a copy of the sanitation and building codes and emphasizing a program of strict enforcement with respect to these codes.

Public
Facilities

Additional landscaping was considered by the Conference as another urgent need. It was further decided that there is a special need for developing park areas as a buffer between residential and industrial sections of the Ward.

IV. CENTRAL WARD HOUSING

Housing Needs

All recorder reports indicated a unanimity of opinion that the need for additional housing in the Central Ward is urgent. Private housing for middle income groups was determined to be the greatest single need. The need for more public housing, and housing for the aged were also considered as basic. The Conference recommended that an all out effort should be made by Central Ward residents to marshal all of the resources of the area in a vigorous program to procure needed housing facilities both through new construction and through full use of existing housing in the area.

Must Seek Representation

The Conference was in full agreement that Central Ward residents should assure themselves of adequate representation in all planning for slum clearance, urban renewal, and urban redevelopment. They should insist that in any and all such activity, adequate provision for necessary schools, parks, and recreational facilities be included. They should take active part in such organizations and agencies as the Newark Citizen Housing Council; The Neighborhood Conservation Program; The Newark Housing Authority; and the City Planning Commission. Every opportunity should be utilized by community groups to make clear to both official and unofficial planning bodies, the needs and desires of Central Ward residents.

High-rise Projects

The advantages and disadvantages of "high-rise" housing projects were explored by the Conference. The general conclusions reached were to the effect that "high-rise" projects were less desirable than the garden type project, and whenever possible should be avoided.

Public Housing Policy

In keeping with the laws of the State of New Jersey, the Conference affirmed a policy of integration in housing, private as well as public. The Conference contended, however, that the laws also specify that the tenanting of public housing projects must be on the basis of need. The general conclusion reached by conference participants was unanimous that when there is a conflict between "integration" and "need", tenanting must be carried out on the basis of need.

Rent Computation

The procedures by which rents are established in public housing projects became another matter of inquiry by the Conference. Some residents of public housing projects expressed concern that the rent fixing procedures worked inequities on some families. The Conference suggested that this problem be assigned to a committee of affected persons and that this committee seek a satisfactory solution through conference with the appropriate officials of the Newark Housing Authority.

Protective Services

According to information presented to the Conference, protective services to housing projects are provided by special police hired by the Newark Housing Authority. It was indicated that these men receive unrealistic salaries and as a result, services are frequently unsatisfactory. The Conference recommended, therefore, that these positions be placed under the municipal civil service system in order that better personnel at adequate pay could be recruited.

Central Ward Rents

The Conference found that while all rents in private housing in the Central Ward are too high, they are even higher for Negro than for white tenants. For example, the Conference was told, where an apartment would rent for \$65 per month to a white family, it was not unusual that the same apartment would cost a Negro family of equal size \$100. In addition, the Negro family would be required to post at least two months advance rent as security. Each time an apartment is vacated by whites, this facility when rented to Negroes, would ordinarily cost as much as 50% more. The Conference declared such conditions intolerable and recommended that the community organize its resources to effectively combat such exploitation.

Property Maintenance

There was unanimous agreement among the Conference participants that a general repair movement on properties in the Central Ward is urgent. It was also agreed that landlords of Central Ward properties should be spurred to undertake such a program. Failure to make necessary repairs, the Conference decided, present great hazards to health and safety and constitute a major cause of accidents. The Conference recommended that interested groups, organizations, and agencies in the area, therefore, combine their efforts to stimulate such a movement. It was further pointed out that an effective program of this nature would enhance property values in the area and would, therefore, be of benefit to landlords, tenants, and the City.

Specific Improvements

Of specific interest to the Conference was the failure of landlords to provide bathrooms and toilets in each unit of multiple family dwellings; failure to provide receptacles for the disposal of garbage; failure to meet sanitary code requirements; failure to provide full time or satisfactory janitorial services in keeping hallways and grounds clean and safe. The failure of public housing projects to provide adequate toilets, showers, drinking fountains, and proper maintenance in their recreational facilities was another item of concern of the Conference.

Landlord Tenant Relations

A program for better understanding and more cooperation between landlord and tenant was considered by the Conference as an essential approach to better housing in the Central Ward. It was agreed by Conference participants that some type of Tenants Committee should be established for the purpose of working with landlords individually and/or collectively on problems of tenant selection; improvement; repair and maintenance; tenants responsibilities; and neighborhood improvement. The resources of the entire Central Ward should be organized so that a representative committee could be set up for this purpose.

V. CENTRAL WARD RECREATION

General Insufficiency

Recreation in the Central Ward, the Conference found, suffers from a general insufficiency of facilities, staff, and programming. There are too few parks; too few playgrounds; and too few swimming pools. There is also an urgent need for an adequately equipped and staffed recreation building in both the 15th Avenue and the High Street areas. Every effort, the Conference concluded, should be made to secure the provision of these services and facilities through cooperation with both public and private agencies.

Inadequate Equipment

Most of the existing playgrounds in the Central Ward are poorly equipped, the Conference found. This is particularly true with respect to playgrounds within public housing projects. Inside facilities within public housing projects are also insufficient and inadequate. The Conference concluded that forthright action need be taken by residents of the Central Ward if satisfactory recreation facilities and services are to be obtained.

Personnel

The need for additional professionally trained recreation workers in the Central Ward was considered urgent throughout all of the recorders' reports. It is important, these reports indicated, that such personnel be not only professionally competent, but of an attitude and disposition which would properly fit them for work in this ward. Persons known to possess anti-Semitic, anti-Negro attitudes or any other form of racial or religious bias should be excluded from services in this area.

Program

The Conference urged that the residents of the Central Ward work more closely with public and private group work agencies in the area for better recreation programming. This is particularly true with respect to programs planned for adults. There was a general feeling among Conference participants that considerable strengthening was needed in current recreational activities in the Ward geared to adult participation. Saturday and Sunday recreation programs attractive to teenagers was another type of activity with which program planners in the Ward should be concerned.

Program Financing

Considerable attention was devoted by the Conference to the question of funds for financing an adequate recreation program in the Central Ward. As a result of this discussion, it was suggested that the following possibilities be explored: (1) Availability of municipal funds for improving an existing recreation center and operating it as a municipal facility (2) Availability of municipal funds for subsidizing the recreation facilities of a private social agency, and (3) establishment of a budget within the Newark Housing Authority for the improvement and maintenance of recreation facilities in public housing projects.

The extent to which citizens in the Central Ward could work as individuals and groups to secure desired recreation facilities and programs was also taken up by the Conference. What type of support could be offered to private agencies? How can lay people bolster existing recreation programs in the area? What are the responsibilities of lay citizens on the problem of commercial recreation activities of an undesirable nature? The Conference concluded that these points should be explored, and that a representative citizens' group should be organized to carry this operation through to a satisfactory conclusion.

VI. INTERGROUP RELATIONS

Integration a Problem

Only 33 percent of the Conference participants believed that the Central Ward could be considered an integrated area and only half of the participants were satisfied with intergroup relations in their neighborhood of the Central Ward.

Participation In Intergroup Activities

Sixty-four percent of the Conference participants indicated that they took part in intergroup activities in the Central Ward, and 75 percent declared that they participated in intergroup activities on a city-wide basis.

Intergroup Agencies

The Mayor's Commission on Group Relations, and the State Division Against Discrimination were equally known to the participants; 83 percent declaring a knowledge of the Commission and 82 percent a knowledge of the Division. An overwhelming majority of the participants indicated that they would like to work with groups and organizations such as these two agencies.

A City-wide Problem

Fifty-nine percent of the participants felt that intergroup relations was a problem in their respective neighborhoods; 64 percent felt it was a problem in the Ward; and 76 percent declared it to be a problem in the City.

Respect for The Law

Conference participants felt that more need be done by intergroup agencies, both public and private, to acquaint employers with the provisions of state laws against discrimination and to secure better enforcement of such laws. Participants also felt that effective literature; well organized and executed public forums; and adult education activities and projects would constitute effective approaches in developing better intergroup relations.

Race and The Press

Special effort should be made, the Conference decided, to prevent the public press from creating confusion by labeling as "race riots" every kind of fight in which youngsters of different races are involved.

Citizens Participation

The effective development of good intergroup relations depends upon the honest cooperation of individual citizens, the participants further decided. It was urged that each member of the Conference devote active effort to developing better intergroup relations through his own racial relationship and through effective support of groups, organizations, and agencies working in the field of human relations.

VII. WELFARE SERVICES

Lack of Information

The Conference was in complete agreement that one of the basic inadequacies of welfare services in the Central Ward was the lack of information about them and the agencies that make such services available.

Services And Agencies Not Known

It was further decided that the general public in the area should be made well aware of what kind of social and welfare services are available. What specific services are rendered by the various agencies and organizations. How can contact be easily made and what are the proper procedures for getting effective service.

People Fear Treatment

There is a need, the Conference found, for alleviating the fears of the average individual with respect to the use of welfare agencies. Many persons are reluctant to apply to agencies because they fear cold and unsympathetic reception. This, the Conference found, was more true with respect to public agencies than to private.

Special Needs

Special needs of the Central Ward were for expanded consultation services geared to family problems such as assistance in marital relations; unwed mothers; youth counselling; family finances; and direct relief. The problem of direct emergency relief is particularly acute among non-whites.

Medical Services

It was also decided that attention should be given to the availability of medical services to residents of the Central Ward and the services rendered to the Negro segment of the population in publicly supported institutions.

PART IV

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations for action represent the thoughts and the feelings of the participants in the Central Ward Neighborhood Conference, as formulated and edited by the Steering Committee. They are herewith submitted to the authorities in charge of the various Departments under discussion and to representative civic organizations concerned with the issues involved.

Schools

Study of the responses given by the participants in the Conference revealed that the conditions in the public schools of the Central Ward were the foremost concern of the citizens in this area. The largest number of complaints and of recommendations were made in the field of public education. In keeping with statements made at the Conference, it is recommended that:

1. the Board of Education immediately start to construct the West Kinney Street Junior High School, so that this school will open in September 1958, in accordance with commitments made publicly by Mayor Carlin and Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Franklin Titus.
2. conversion of Cleveland Jr. High School into an elementary school with all necessary modern facilities be undertaken at such date that this school also can open in September 1958.
3. the totally inadequate facilities, particularly those factors causing the poor sanitary conditions in the Central Ward schools be immediately studied and rehabilitation procedures initiated.
4. the Central Ward schools be provided, without delay, with all necessary equipment and supplies now lacking.
5. the Board of Education use immediately the \$375,000 set aside in 1953 for the construction of an adequate playground for the 18th Avenue School.
6. in the planning for a better Newark the fact be considered that most cities of this size provide indoor swimming pools in the public high schools, and this idea be given immediate and continuing consideration here.

Concerning instruction offered in the schools, it is recommended that:

7. the curricula in the Central Ward schools be revised and improved so that stress on the practical arts does not handicap students interested in college preparatory courses and other intellectual pursuits.
8. a large scale program of strengthening existing and of introducing new services for the benefit of atypical children be introduced. Such a program should include:
 - a. assignment of social workers and psychologists to all schools which do not have such personnel.
 - b. provision of guidance counselors for elementary schools.

c. enriched curricula for gifted children and for more extensive referral and training services for slow learners, mentally retarded and emotionally disturbed children be instituted at once.

Discussing the teacher situation, the Conference recommended that:

9. the Board of Education initiate, develop and perfect an incentive plan which would provide the Central Ward with teachers who are competent and effective in working with the children in this area. An efficient pre-service and in-service training program should be inaugurated as means for achieving this end.

10. In order to attract the best teachers to the schools most in need of them, it is recommended that full consideration be given to the salary requests made by teachers.

11. It is strongly recommended that the preponderance of substitute teachers in the Central Ward be reduced to the proportions of the city-wide average.

It is furthermore strongly recommended that:

12. where housing projects are being planned, or have been constructed, and where areas are designated for redevelopment, school facilities should simultaneously be made available, so as to meet new needs created by population shifts; this should be done either through new construction or by expanding existing school facilities.

In order to promote more and better cooperation between the people in the city and the administrators of the public school system, it is recommended that:

13. the Board of Education develop and expand its public relations activities to the point where the population is made aware of the planning and the problems of the Board - that information be given to the public which will help interested citizens to assist the Board of Education in developing a school program in keeping with the needs of the children and with the ideals of a better Newark.

14. and that all individuals and groups (lay and religious) make use of the information thus made available and work in close cooperation with the local schools and the Board of Education for a better school program.

Municipal Services

Due to the fact that the concentration of population in the Central Ward is dense and community conditions are particularly unfavorable, statistics show a high concentration of crime and delinquency in this Ward. It is, therefore, recommended that:

1. better police coverage be provided in accordance with needs known and stated by citizens, and that urgent consideration be given to the findings of the Central Ward Conference.

2. the Youth Aid Bureau be strengthened by the appointment of sufficient staff of well-trained workers.

3. It is particularly recommended that special attention be given to the serious problem of drunkenness and vagrancy around the 18th Avenue School on Belmont Avenue and Spruce Street, around Morton Street School on Broome and Court Streets, in the Rutgers Street and 13th Avenue area, and in other similarly endangered locations.

4. Since Capt. Lawrence Luck became Commanding Officer of the 4th Precinct, incidents of police brutality have noticeably decreased in the Central Ward. It is, therefore, recommended that the type of training which makes possible such administration be enlarged to include and influence the entire police force, so that police brutality shall disappear from the record of the City of Newark.

5. In the area of traffic control, the following recommendations are herewith made:

a. More traffic lights, especially on the corners of West Kinney St. and Sayre St. of Bergen St. and 17th Ave., and Belmont Ave. and West Kinney St.

b. The placing of traffic signs, with attention to utmost visibility, to limit speed in all school and social agency areas. Strict enforcement of speed laws in these areas which are particularly frequented by children.

c. A study to improve the flow of traffic in the Central Ward.

d. In view of the fact that double parking endangers lives, hampers the flow of traffic for long periods of time, and is detrimental to the commercial interests of the area, it is recommended that more motorcycle officers, mounted policemen and traffic officers be assigned to enforce these traffic regulations.

6. In order to improve cleanliness and sanitary conditions in the Central Ward, it is recommended that:

a. alternate parking on different sides of the street be introduced and enforced to facilitate street cleaning.

b. the Bureau of Sanitation provide litter cans and conduct a leaflet campaign to encourage the citizens to keep the streets clean.

c. provision of proper and sufficient receptacles for garbage for each family be rigidly enforced in accordance with the present City code.

In order to implement this recommendation, it is furthermore urged that a sufficient number of inspectors be assigned to the Bureau of Sanitation to rigidly enforce the sanitation laws.

7. In order to improve health conditions in the city, it is recommended that the Board of Health develop a Program of Community Health Education and Correction which should include the following features:

a. Ample dental services. The Central Ward needs 4 - 5 dental clinics, including a mobile clinic to visit the Central Ward schools.

- b. Adequate nursery services for the children of working parents.
- c. Better equipped Baby Keep Well Stations (many of those now in operation are totally inadequate.)
- d. More service given by Visiting Nurses.
- e. Strict and frequent inspection of all food selling establishments in the Central Ward.
- f. Review and revision of the excessive number of liquor licenses given to dealers in the Central Ward.

Housing

According to the 1950 census report, nearly 50 percent of the substandard housing in the City of Newark was located in the old Third Ward. Since the Central Ward consists of the old Third Ward plus parts of the 7th, 15th and 16th Wards, it is recommended:

- 1. that citizens of the Central Ward should unite their efforts in securing the passage of State legislation which would empower the State to establish an agency with the power to grant financial assistance to builders and developers of middle-income housing.
- 2. that the owners and/or managers of existing private housing developments be encouraged to make those housing facilities available to qualified applicants on the basis of need and economic ability, without regard to race, color or creed.
- 3. that the Board of Health rigidly enforce minimum standards as set forth in the housing, sanitary and health codes of the city and that landlords be required through the Courts to rehabilitate those structures which do not meet the above requirements.
- 4. that the Rent Control Board of the City of Newark prepare a digest and explanation of the rent control laws in popular language for general distribution to the public, so that all should be properly informed of the specific application of the law.
- 5. that the Rent Control Board strictly enforce the provisions under the Rent Control Laws of the City of Newark.
- 6. As an aid to effective management, it is strongly recommended that the Tenant Relations Division of the Newark Housing Authority be expanded and properly staffed with professionally trained and/or experienced personnel in social welfare and with good orientation in human and intergroup relations.
- 7. Further, it is recommended that contacts be established at the regional and national levels of the Housing and Home Finance Agency to include a Tenants Relations Division or some similar social welfare service as a part of its regular operating procedure in all public housing projects where such services are needed or desired.

8. In all future public housing developments in the Central Ward, it is recommended that preference be given to garden type rather than high-rise projects, wherever feasible.

9. With respect to rent computation, it is recommended that the Newark Housing Authority develop a more effective procedure for acquainting tenants with the system so as to eliminate misunderstanding and confusion about rent computation.

10. Where there is a conflict between the need for housing and the desirability of maintaining integration in housing projects, it is most strongly recommended that this conflict be resolved on the basis of need.

11. It is further recommended that tenant selection procedures of the Newark Housing Authority be so strengthened and improved that the more desirable applicants are selected from the lists of eligibles for tenancy.

12. It is finally recommended that the Federal Public Housing Law be amended to empower local Housing Authorities to employ Special Policemen with civil service status and proper training in human relations.

In order to offer the citizenry recreation services which will be helpful and expedient in promoting the healthy development of the people in our community and in eliminating delinquent tendencies due to lack of proper leisure time occupation, it is recommended that:

Recreation

1. the auditorium and gymnasium in the Hayes Homes, now used by the Board of Education for class room teaching be returned to the recreation activities for which they were designed, and that the construction of the West Kinney Street Junior High School, plus more adequate recreation facilities as now planned be accelerated.

2. the construction of an enlarged playground for 18th Ave. School be immediately undertaken.

3. staffs and programs be provided for the playgrounds and recreation halls in the Felix Fuld Court and Harrison Douglas Court Housing Projects.

4. investigation be made by the City of the old YWHA on High Street and the former Jewish orphanage on 535 Clinton Ave. for possible use as a recreational facility.

5. construction of small parks and swimming pools in connection with the Urban Renewal and Redevelopment Program and with the Neighborhood Rehabilitation and Conservation Program be urgently considered by the City Planning Commission and the Newark Housing Authority.

6. provision of adequate recreational facilities in the new housing project to be constructed in the Spruce Street area be investigated and assured.

7. coordination of programs in the Central Ward recreation agencies be inaugurated by those agencies involved.

8. establishment of more recreation programs for adults be thoroughly investigated and planned for the immediate future.

Welfare Services

In order to serve the people in need of social welfare services more fittingly and in a realistic manner, it is recommended:

1. that all welfare services available to the population be itemized and publicized in popular form. Simple, easily understandable pamphlets containing this information should be distributed through schools, business and industry, neighborhood stores, public buses, etc.
2. that emergency relief be made available at the shortest possible notice.
3. that consultation services geared to family and marital problems, youth counseling, finances, direct relief, and other important problems be established in the Central Ward in central locations, and staffed in such fashion that the needs for guidance in this area be met as completely as possible.
4. that a Community Child Guidance Clinic with adequate facilities and personnel for psychiatric and psychological diagnostic and treatment services for out-patients be established as soon as possible.
5. that admission procedures at Martland Medical Center be investigated and improved.
6. and that welfare agencies employ personnel with better professional and human relations training as found in many of the workers presently employed. This request is made particularly in view of the need to alleviate the general public's fear concerning contact with social agencies.

Intergroup Relations

To improve intergroup relations in Newark, it is recommended that:

1. the Newark Housing Authority and Central Planning Board remain constantly aware of the segregated quality of the Central Ward, and in all future planning do everything in their power to work towards racial and economic integration in the Central Ward and throughout the city.
2. the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations involve Central Ward residents in all on-going programs and activities for better integration throughout the Central Ward and the City of Newark.
3. the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations and the Urban League with the assistance of all other public and private agencies in the field of human relations, wage a campaign to acquaint all employers and employees in Newark with the provisions of the New Jersey State Law Against Discrimination and to work with the Division Against Discrimination to secure broader enforcement of the law.
4. conferences should be held with newspaper editors and publishers to urge them not to create community tensions by labeling "kids quarrels" as "race riots", just because Negro and white participants happen to be involved.
5. In view of the fact that the participants of the Conference considered integration in all private housing a vital factor in intergroup relations in the community, it is recommended that the Newark Economic Development Committee interest builders, owners, developers, lending agencies and the Real Estate Board in providing private housing available to all people in all sections of the community without restrictions on race and religion.

SPONSORS' COMMITTEE

Daniel S. Anthony	Barbara Hubbard
Ethel Ball	George Jackson
Dorothy Barcliff	Alfonso James
Richard Bland	Earl C. Johnson
Ida Branch	Sylvia Josephson
Ruby Brewton	LaVozier LaMar
Mrs. Stephen Burke	Virginia LaPorte
Johanne Burnett	Dorothea Lee
Walter Chambers	Jane Meyse
Arthur Chapin	Helen Newton
Brant Coopersmith	Margaret Nordstrom
Mollie Dawkins	James A. Pawley
Jacob Feldman	Nathaniel Potts
Grace Fender ^{son}	Ophelia Potts
Beadie Francis	Margaret Roberts
Antoinette Fried	Timothy Still
Elfriede Gelb	Rosalie Thomas
Ruth Gibbs	Lucius Tompkins
Grace Golat	Carolease Towers
Andrew Gottschall	Mary Tribble
Dorothy Gould	Judge Esther Unterman
Jac Graves	Vivian Walker
Rev. Stanley Hallett	Sylvia Witham
Arnold Harris	Bertell C. Wright
Marie L. Harrison	Leonard Holman

Nora Holman

STEERING COMMITTEE

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Morton Street Boys Club

Miss Ethel Ball
Social Worker
Jersey City Dept. Public Welfare

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Assistant Director
Mayor's Commission Group Relations

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Tenants Relations Division
Newark Housing Authority

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Urban League of Essex County

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Executive Director
Fuld Neighborhood House

Dr. Leo Litaky
Principal
Cleveland Junior High School

Timothy Still, Chairman
Tenants Association
William P. Hayes Homes

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William P. Hayes Homes

GROUP LEADERS

Mrs. Ruby Brewton	Walter Chambers
Mrs. Gladys Churchman	Mrs. Mollie Dawkins
Jacob Feldman	Dr. Antoinette Fried
Mrs. Elfriede Gelb	Andrew Gottschall
Reverend Stanley Hallet	Mrs. Marie L. Harrison
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LaVoizier LaMar	Miss Virginia LaPorte
Miss Dorothea Lee	Miss Jane Moyse
Lucius H. Tompkins	Judge Esther Unterman
Mrs. Marjorie Van Dyke	Mrs. Bertell Wright

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Peter V. R. Schuyler Director Welfare Federation of Newark	Joseph E. Sugrue Police Director City of Newark

Irvine I. Turner
Councilman
Central Ward

QUESTIONNAIRE: CENTRAL WARD NEIGHBORHOOD CONFERENCE: Use Reverse Side for Comment

I. Housing

Yes No

Do you live in the Central Ward? _____

Do you own a home? _____

rent an apartment? _____

live in a rooming house? _____

live in a Public Housing Project? _____

Do you like the home you live in? _____

II. City Services.....in your neighborhood....in the Central Ward

Yes No Yes No

Are you satisfied with

police protection _____

garbage removal _____

street cleaning _____

traffic control by police _____

traffic lights _____

transportation facilities _____

III. Schools

Do your children go to Public School? _____

Elementary School _____

Junior High School _____

High School _____

Do your children attend a Parochial School? _____

Elementary School _____

High School _____

IV. Recreation

Do your children go to

a recreation agency _____

a public playground _____

a public swimming pool _____

Do you make use of public parks & reservations? _____

Are there enough recreation facilities

in your neighborhood? _____

V. Welfare Services

Do you make use of one or more Welfare Agencies? _____

Are you satisfied with services received _____

VI. Intergroup Relations

Do you feel that the Central Ward

is an integrated area? _____

Are you satisfied with intergroup relations

in your neighborhood? _____

Do you participate in intergroup

activities in your ward, _____

in the city, _____

Do you know there is a Mayor's Commission for Group Relations _____

Do you know there is a Division Against Discrimination _____

Would you like to work in such an organization? _____

Do you feel intergroup relations are a problem in your ward? _____

neighborhood? _____

in the city? _____